

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PC 1, EP2004/052872

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A01K67/033 A01K67/027 A61K49/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A01K A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, BIOSIS, MEDLINE, EMBASE, WPI Data, PAJ, CHEM ABS Data, SCISEARCH, PASCAL

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	HONG YOUNG-KWON ET AL: "Prox1, master regulator of the lymphatic vasculature phenotype." CELL AND TISSUE RESEARCH. OCT 2003, vol. 314, no. 1, October 2003 (2003-10), pages 85-92, XP002319340 ISSN: 0302-766X page 87, column 2, paragraph 2 - page 88, column 1; table 1	1-6
Y	US 2001/037016 A1 (PURCHIO ANTHONY F ET AL) 1 November 2001 (2001-11-01) abstract; examples 7-14 page 6, column 2, paragraph 5 - page 10, column 1, paragraph 1 ----- -/--	1-6



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *8* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 February 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

14/03/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Krueger, J

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. Patent Application No

PL 17 EP2004/052872

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DEL RIO-TSONIS KATIA ET AL: "Regulation of Prox 1 during lens regeneration" IOVS, vol. 40, no. 9, August 1999 (1999-08), pages 2039-2045, XP002319342 the whole document	1-6
A	ALITALO KARI ET AL: "Molecular mechanisms of lymphangiogenesis in health and disease" CANCER CELL, vol. 1, no. 3, April 2002 (2002-04), pages 219-227, XP002272726 ISSN: 1535-6108 abstract; table 1	1-6
A	ROCKSON STANLEY G: "Preclinical models of lymphatic disease: the potential for growth factor and gene therapy." ANNALS OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. UNITED STATES DEC 2002, vol. 979, December 2002 (2002-12), pages 64-75;discussion 76 - 79, XP009027082 ISSN: 0077-8923 abstract	1-6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

ational application No.
PCT/EP2004/052872

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.:

Present claims 1-3 and 5-6 relate to an extremely large number of possible promoters specifically expressed in the lymphatic vessel system. Likewise, the term "biologically relevant transgene" in claim 2 relates to an extremely large number of possible genes. Support within the meaning of Article 84 EPC and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 83 EPC is to be found, however, for only a very small proportion of the promoters. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be supported and disclosed, namely those parts relating to the promoters/genes mentioned in claim 4, i.e. Podoplanin, Prox-1, VEGFR-3 and LYVE-1.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

Information on patent family members

Internal Application No

PCT/EP2004/052872

Form PCT/ISA/210 (patent family annex) (January 2004)